

## FULBRIGHT URGES SPACE FUND CUT

**Insists Schools and Jobs  
Should Have Priority**

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Senator J. W. Fulbright called on Congress today to reduce "substantially" the space budget and end the race with the Russians for the moon.

Any funds cut from the \$5.1 billion appropriation voted by the House for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should be reallocated to education and employment programs now before Congress, the Arkansas Democrat urged.

On the eve of consideration of the NASA budget by the Senate Appropriations Committee, Mr. Fulbright declared in a floor speech:

"The conquest of outer space is a worthy and inspiring aspiration, but the education and employment of our people is a basic and immediate necessity."

### Questions Priority

Mr. Fulbright said the "real question" facing Congress was priorities. There is a dangerous imbalance between the space program, whose benefits may be considerable although remote, incalculable, and the pressing needs for schools and jobs, he argued.

In a debate over the moon program, he said, he has not been persuaded that "it would be a national calamity if the layoff in the moon were delayed until 1980 or 1990."

However, he went on, he has been persuaded that "our neglect of deteriorating schools and rising unemployment would be a national calamity."

The Administration has sought to influence unbelievers in Congress as to the importance of placing an American on the moon by 1970. The cost is estimated at \$20 billion.

"It is not at all clear that the Russians are trying to beat us to the moon," Mr. Fulbright said. "More important, it is even less clear that it would be an irretrievable disaster if they did."

If the Russians win the moon race, he said, "it would hurt our pride, but not our lives as free men in a free society; most emphatically, it would not change the course of history."

The conflict between freedom and dictatorship, he insisted, is more than "a competition in technological stunts."

If, by 1970, he added, the Russians have reached the moon while the United States has built the best system of public education, renovated its cities and alleviated poverty and disease, "who would then be ahead in the worldwide struggle for the minds of men?"

Mr. Fulbright admitted that Congress had not provided sufficient money for education and other domestic needs, and that there was no assurance that funds cut from the space budget would be spent for those purposes.

But a reduction in space expenditures could be the impetus for such appropriations, he declared.

Moreover, because the money is not spent on urgent needs, he said, there is no reason to spend it on "things we don't need." He would prefer, he said, not to spend the money at all.

"The question before us," the Senator said, "is not whether we should or should not send a manned rocket ship to the moon, but whether the project is so vital and urgent as to warrant the indefinite postponement of other national efforts."

He said scientists had estimated that as much information could be obtained from an unmanned flight at one-tenth the cost.